

returned to it and consumed its contents. During these experiments, we also observed that when a second instar larva of *Danaus genutia* came in contact with a fourth instar larva, the latter regurgitated a greenish fluid which dried in a few minutes. This is perhaps an item of chemical defence mistakenly triggered by tactile stimulus (see Rauch 1977).

A second instar larva of the blue tiger *Tirumala (Danaus) limniace* on *Marsdenia tenacissima* was collected along with three leaves, each having an egg. The larva, when it came in contact with the eggs, crawled on them and did not show any interest in eating them. However, in the evening NC found two newly hatched larvae and one egg missing.

One of us (MH) observed that while rearing larvae of *Acareia violae* on a garden variety of *Passiflora*, a newly formed pupa kept with three full-grown larvae in the morning was missing in the evening, presumably having been eaten by one of the mature larvae. An identical observation was made by Isaac Kehimkar (pers. comm.) while rearing the common rose *Pachliopta aristolochiae*. In his case a full-grown larvae kept with a pupa partially ate the latter before fresh leaves of *Aristolochia* could be furnished.

NARESH CHATURVEDI

December 3, 1991

MEENA HARIBAL

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29. FOOD PLANTS OF BLISTER BEETLE *MYLABRIS PUSTULATA* THUNB. (COLEOPTERA : CANTHARIDAE) FROM PT. CALIMERE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, TAMIL NADU

TABLE 1
FOOD PLANTS OF BLISTER BEETLE AT PT. CALIMERE SANCTUARY

Species	Family	Parts eaten
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.	Zygophyllaceae	Flower
<i>Salacia chinensis</i> L.	Hippocrateaceae	Tender shoots
<i>Canavalia ensiformis</i> DC.	Papilionaceae	Flower
<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.) Pierre	Papilionaceae	Flower
<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i> (L.) W. & A.	Mimosaceae	Flower
<i>Prosopis chilensis</i> (Molina) S.	Mimosaceae	Flower
<i>Opuntia dillenni</i> (Ker-Gawl.) Haw.	Cactaceae	Flower, fruit
<i>Catunaregam spinosa</i> (Thunb.) Tiruvengadam	Rubiaceae	Flower
<i>Salvadora persica</i> L.	Salvadoraceae	Flower, fruit
<i>Ipomoea obscura</i> (L.) Ker-Gawl.	Convolvulaceae	Flower
<i>Rivea hypocrateriformis</i> Desr. Choisy	Covolvulaceae	Flower
<i>Clerodendrum inerme</i> (L.) Gaertner	Verbenaceae	Flower
<i>Gmelina asiatica</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Flower
<i>Excoecaria agallocha</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Tender shoots

The blister beetle *Mylabris pustulata* Thunb. is very common in south India and is a pest on numerous crops and other plant species. This beetle feeds on the flowers and tender shoots of many plants such as cotton, gogu, red gram, groundnut, cowpea, lab-lab, cucurbitaceae, prickly pear, garden species of *Hibiscus*, rose plants and the fruits of *Artocarpus* species. (SOME SOUTH INDIAN INSECTS AND OTHER ANIMALS OF IMPORTANCE, Fletcher, T.B. 1914, MANUAL OF FOREST ZOOLOGY FOR INDIA, Stebbing, E.P. 1977).

While studying plant-animal interactions at

the Pt. Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, I observed this beetle feeding on flowers and fruits of the plants listed in Table 1. However, they were more frequently noted on the flowers of *Canavalia ensiformis* and *Opuntia dillenni*, which indicates that the beetle is a serious pest on these two species of plants.

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December 3, 1991 P. BALASUBRAMANIAN

30. NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD FOR *INDIALONA GANAPATI* PETKOVSKI (CRUSTACEA : CLADOCERA) FROM UJANI WETLAND, MAHARASHTRA, WITH FIRST DESCRIPTION OF MALE AND REPRODUCTIVE FEMALE

(With ten text-figures)

Indialona ganapati was originally described by Petkovski (1966) on the basis of parthenogenetic females from Ahmedabad, but he did not give sufficient characters for its diagnosis. Smirnov (1971) redefined the genus *Indialona* on the basis of literature and added a few more species from other genera like *Alona globulosa* Daday, *A. macronyx* Daday and *Euryalona annandalei* Daday in this genus by using characters such as the high body and a single head pore.

Later, Rajapaksa and Fernando (1987) revised the genus using fresh material collected from all over the world. They have completely changed the status of the genus by retaining only *I. ganapati* in this genus. *I. globulosa* was transferred to a new genus *Notoalona*; *I. macronyx* was reassigned to genus *Alona*, while *E. annandalei* was kept due to non-availability of material for study. *E. annandalei* was originally described from eastern Tibet. Though Rajapaksa and Fernando (1987) and later on Michael and Sharma (1988) have made some observations on *I. ganapati* from material collected from Bhopal lake, Madhya Pradesh, they have only used parthenogenetic females for their studies and redescription.

While studying the Cladocera collected from Ujani wetland, Pune district of Maharashtra, I came across a few males, reproductive females and several parthenogenetic females, which are described in this note with detailed diagnostic characters. The description of this species has great significance because this genus of Cladocera is found only in India, with the above mentioned sole

species. This is only the third record of the species in India, the first being from Ahmedabad (Gujarat, type locality) and the second from Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).

Parthenogenetic female: Length 0.27-0.29 mm. Body nearly circular. Head shield with rounded anterior and posterior margin, with one head pore. Mandibles short and thick, situated between the head shield valves. Posterior margin of valve about half the maximum height. Posterodorsal angle distinct, slightly protruded. Posteroventral corner rounded, without spinules. Valve with sparse setae on the ventral margin. Rostrum blunt. A single head pore situated slightly farther from eye than is the eye from ocellus.

Antennules almost reaching apex of the rostrum. Aesthetases almost uniform in length, slightly longer than the length of rostrum. Setae on antenna : 0-0-3/1-1-3; segments as long as labrum. Seta on proximal segment small, reaching apex of third segment. Prenal and postanal parts of postabdomen are of almost equal size. Ocellus smaller than eye, situated halfway between eye and apex of rostrum. Labral plate rounded, with a notch at the apex. Ventral bulge of valve with a few grouped setae, and setae posterior to it arise from small protuberances. Two very large ejector hooks on first leg. Legs IV and V smaller than the preceding legs. Shape and armature of the postabdomen is typical of this genus. Length-height ratio of body 10 : 7.5.

Reproductive female: Sometimes called Ephippial female. Length 0.27-0.29 mm. Body oval